AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The swivel joint assembly as set forth in Claim ~~1~~ 22, wherein:

said ball bearing means comprises an annular array of ball bearing members disposed around said longitudinal axis of said housing member.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The swivel joint assembly as set forth in Claim ~~1~~ 22, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

said rotary seal members interposed between said

shaft member and said housing member ~~for~~ are capable of withstanding elevated temperature levels characteristic of the hot melt adhesive disposed within said swivel joint assembly so as to ensure the sealing of the interface defined between said shaft member and said housing member.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The swivel joint assembly as set forth in Claim ~~1~~ 22, wherein:

said housing member, said first connector mounted upon said housing member, said shaft member, and said second connector mounted upon said shaft member are all coaxially aligned with respect to each other along said longitudinal axis of said housing member.

7. (Currently Amended) The swivel joint assembly as set forth in Claim ~~1~~ 22, wherein:

said housing member, said shaft member, and said second connector mounted upon said shaft member are all co-axially aligned with respect to each other along said longitudinal axis of said housing member; and

said first connector mounted upon said housing member is disposed substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said housing member.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The hot melt adhesive dispensing system as set forth in Claim ~~8~~ 23, wherein:

said ball bearing means comprises an annular array of ball bearing members disposed around said longitudinal axis of said housing member.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The hot melt adhesive dispensing system as set forth in Claim ~~8~~ 23, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

said rotary seal members interposed between said shaft member and said housing member are capable of ~~for~~ withstanding elevated temperature levels characteristic of the hot melt adhesive disposed within said swivel joint assembly so as to ensure the sealing of the interface defined between said shaft member and said housing member.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The hot melt adhesive dispensing system as set forth in Claim ~~8~~ 23, wherein:

said housing member, said first connector mounted upon said housing member, said shaft member, and said second connector mounted upon said shaft member are all coaxially aligned with respect to each other along said longitudinal axis of said housing member.

14. (Currently Amended) The hot melt adhesive dispensing system as set forth in Claim 8 23, wherein:

said housing member, said shaft member, and said second connector mounted upon said shaft member are all coaxially aligned with respect to each other along said longitudinal axis of said housing member; and

said first connector mounted upon said housing member is disposed substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said housing member.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~15~~ 24, further comprising the step of:

disposing said ball bearing means as an annular array of ball bearing members around said longitudinal axis of said housing member.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 15 24, further comprising the step of:

utilizing ~~interposing~~ rotary seal members, which are interposed between said shaft member and said housing member, which are capable of ~~for~~ withstanding elevated temperature levels characteristic of the hot melt adhesive disposed within said hot melt adhesive dispensing system so as to ensure the sealing of the interface defined between said shaft member and said housing member.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~15~~ 24, further comprising the step of:

coaxially aligning said housing member, said first connector mounted upon said housing member, said shaft member, and said second connector mounted upon said shaft member with respect to each other along said longitudinal axis of said housing member.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~15~~ 24, further comprising the steps of:

coaxially aligning said housing member, said shaft member, and said second connector mounted upon said shaft member with respect to each other along said longitudinal axis of said housing member; and

orienting said first connector mounted upon said housing member substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said housing member.

22. (New) A swivel joint assembly, for use within a hot melt

adhesive dispensing system, comprising:

a housing member defined about a longitudinal axis;

a first connector mounted upon said housing member for connection to a hose member for supplying hot melt adhesive material into said housing member;

a shaft member disposed within said housing member for rotation around said longitudinal axis of said housing member between a dispensing position and a non-dispensing position;

a second connector mounted upon said shaft member for connection to a hot melt adhesive applicator for dispensing hot melt adhesive material onto a substrate during a hot melt adhesive material application phase of a hot melt adhesive material application cycle;

ball bearing means interposed between said shaft member and said housing member for facilitating said rotation of said shaft member around said longitudinal axis of said housing member between said dispensing position and said non-dispensing position despite a substantial increase in line pressure of the hot melt adhesive material, disposed within said swivel joint assembly when the hot melt adhesive applicator is deactivated so as not to dispense any hot melt adhesive material, wherein such increased line pressure would

normally tend to prevent said rotation of said shaft member with respect to said housing member due to hydraulic lock conditions; and

rotary seal members interposed between said shaft member and said housing member, and disposed upon opposite sides of said ball bearing means, for sealing the interface defined between said shaft member and said housing member so as to prevent debris, and the hot melt adhesive disposed within said swivel joint assembly, from fouling said ball bearing means.

23. (New) A hot melt adhesive dispensing system, comprising:

a housing member defined about a longitudinal axis;

a hose member for supplying hot melt adhesive material into said housing member;

a first connector mounted upon said housing member for enabling connection of said hose member to said housing member;

a shaft member disposed within said housing member for rotation around said longitudinal axis of said housing member between a dispensing position and a non-dispensing po-

sition;

a hot melt adhesive applicator for dispensing hot melt adhesive material onto a substrate during a hot melt adhesive material application phase of a hot melt adhesive material application cycle;

a second connector mounted upon said shaft member for enabling connection of said hot melt adhesive applicator to said shaft member;

ball bearing means interposed between said shaft member and said housing member for facilitating said rotation of said shaft member around said longitudinal axis of said housing member so as to rotatably move said hot melt adhesive applicator between said dispensing position and said non-dispensing position despite a substantial increase in line pressure of the hot melt adhesive material, disposed within said swivel joint assembly when said hot melt adhesive applicator is deactivated so as not to dispense any hot melt adhesive material, wherein such increased line pressure would normally tend to prevent said rotation of said shaft member with respect to said housing member due to hydraulic lock conditions; and

rotary seal members interposed between said shaft member and said housing member, and disposed upon opposite

sides of said ball bearing means, for sealing the interface defined between said shaft member and said housing member so as to prevent debris, and the hot melt adhesive disposed within said swivel joint assembly, from fouling said ball bearing means.

24. (New) A method of operating a hot melt adhesive dispensing system, comprising the steps of:

connecting a hose member, for supplying hot melt adhesive material, to a housing member which is defined around a longitudinal axis;

connecting a hot melt adhesive applicator, for dispensing hot melt adhesive material onto a substrate during a hot melt adhesive material application phase of a hot melt adhesive material application cycle, to a shaft member which is disposed within said housing member for rotation around said longitudinal axis of said housing member between a dispensing position and a non-dispensing position such that said hot melt adhesive applicator can move between said dispensing position and said non-dispensing positions;

interposing ball bearing means between said shaft

member and said housing member for facilitating said rotation of said shaft member, and said hot melt adhesive applicator connected to said shaft member, around said longitudinal axis of said housing member between said dispensing position and said non-dispensing position despite a substantial increase in line pressure of the hot melt adhesive material disposed within said swivel joint assembly, when said hot melt adhesive applicator is deactivated so as not to dispense any hot melt adhesive material, wherein such increased line pressure would normally tend to prevent said rotation of said shaft member with respect to said housing member due to hydraulic lock conditions; and

interposing rotary seal members between said shaft member and said housing member such that said rotary seal members are disposed upon opposite sides of said ball bearing means so as to seal the interface defined between said shaft member and said housing member so as to prevent debris, and the hot melt adhesive disposed within said swivel joint assembly, from fouling said ball bearing means.